

Tuesday, January 22, 2013
For Immediate Release

Corridor Medical Shuttle to Begin January 29

The Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) announced today that they have received funding which will allow for a twice weekly medical shuttle service between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City hospitals.

The “**Corridor Medical Shuttle**” will begin transporting passengers the last week in January. It is primarily designed as a way to enable IowaCare patients without transportation to get to University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics and non-ambulatory Veterans to get to VA Hospital for needed appointments.

Funding through 2013 has been received from the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Special Transit Assistance Program and the President’s Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Rides will be provided by Neighborhood Transportation Service (NTS), a local nonprofit that primarily provides evening rides to work and educational programs, and Linn County LIFTS, the paratransit service which provides door-to-door transportation for eligible elderly and disabled citizens in the metro area of Cedar Rapids, Marion, and Hiawatha.

“This is a truly collaborative project” said Mike Barnhart, Executive Director of NTS. “Without the funding assistance from the State Department of Transportation and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, as well as support from Cedar Rapids Transit, Linn County, the Transportation Advisory Group and all of our other funders and partners, there would be a lot of people in even greater need.”

The need for this service was created when the University of Iowa announced that it would discontinue providing transportation to IowaCare patients at the end of December, 2012.

Tom Hardecopf, Director of Linn County LIFTS, said “the shuttle will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays and reservations will be required. Rides will be free for Veterans and \$1 each way for IowaCare patients. The general public can ride the shuttle for \$8 each way.”

The shuttle will depart Cedar Rapids at 8:30 am, from the Cedar Rapids Transit Bus Stop (Lot 44), at the corner of Second Street and 12th Avenue SE. It will drop passengers off at the main entrances of the University of Iowa Hospital and the VA Hospital.

The shuttle will depart from Iowa City, from the VA Hospital at 3 pm and UI Hospital at 3:15 pm, again near the main entrance patient loading areas, returning to the Cedar Rapids Transit Bus Stop (Lot 44), near the corner of Second Street and 12th Avenue SE.

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To make a reservation, passengers must call 319-892-5170 (Linn County LIFTS) by noon the day before they need to ride. Reservations can be made as soon as a medical appointment has been scheduled. Multiple reservations may be made at one time.

To cancel a ride call 319-892-5170 (Linn County LIFTS) as soon as possible, but no later than 7 am the day of the ride.

For more information on the service and answers to questions, visit the www.365ride.org website or call 319-365-RIDE (319-365-7433).

For additional information contact:

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